

when they've had a boom for 20 years of an increase in income. But if we reduce wages for middle class people, that somehow this economy will just turn right around.

And let me remind my friends on the other side, we are currently living under the President Bush tax system. If this tax system of cutting taxing for the wealthiest worked had created jobs, we wouldn't have the problems we have right now. Think about it. We are living under President Bush's tax system. This system, in '01 and '03, was supposed to lead to tremendous growth and job creation in the American economy. It hasn't worked. America works when we reinvest back into our people, when we make sure people are trained and educated.

I am for a reduction in the corporate tax. We do need to keep business taxes low so that we can be more competitive. But when you start making hundreds of millions of dollars and billions of dollars, like Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, you've got to pay a little bit more in taxes. And we need that revenue so that we can rebuild our infrastructure in the United States, so that we can make college more affordable in the United States, so that average families in Youngstown, in Niles can send their kids to college to become engineers. That revenue can be used to make sure that every American has affordable health care, so that no family in the United States has to make a decision or stare at the ceiling when they are laying in bed at night, worrying about whether or not their children will have proper health care, or that if one of their kids gets sick, they may not be able to afford health care. That shouldn't happen in the United States of America.

What the NLRB has done is said, Let's give more fairness, more transparency, a more streamlined process so that workers can unite together and have some little bit of leverage against the massive corporate interests. I've been down here 9 years now in this Congress, and it seems to me that whatever the oil industry wants, they get; whatever the insurance industry wants, they get; whatever the multinationals want, they get. And if we don't begin as a country to empower average people to make a good middle class wage, we are not going to be the America any of us want. We are going to be weaker.

You want to talk about family values—these are family values. What the NLRB has done is move us closer to having some family values. So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to say thank you to the leadership of the NLRB for some of these proposed changes. I hope they continue to move forward. And I hope this is just one small step where we, as a country, say, You know, the middle class is working, if we're manufacturing things in the United States, if we work together with a common cause, a common purpose, if we're healthy, if we're educated, everything

else will take care of itself. That's the kind of country that this decision is moving us towards, and I would like to thank them.

SYRIAN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, while our President telegraphs to our enemies a timeline for ending the war that they are certainly willing to continue to commit to, while military efforts continue in Libya with uncertain, undisclosed, and unsuccessful outcomes led by our administration under NATO command, greater atrocities perpetrated against freedom seekers in Syria go unaddressed, unannounced, unconsidered by our President. Why? What's the reason? What's the time limit? It is known that Syria has been a continuing threat to freedom and a strong supporter and sustainer of unrest and terrorism in the Middle East and around the world. They're a strong ally of Iran and a constant threat to our friend Israel.

As freedom-seeking citizens of Syria join, Mr. Speaker, many others in the Middle East in calling for political reforms, respect for human rights, and regime change, the government of Syria and President Bashar Al-Assad is violently and sadistically suppressing the Syrian people, his own people. Tanks, snipers, goon squads, violent attacks on women and children, starvation and dehydration, inhuman imprisonment, torture, and worse has been the norm for the Syrian people for too long—without a strong and principled response from our President and our Nation. Why? We're not calling for a war. We're not calling for troops on the ground. We're not calling for anything right now except to take a stand against this atrocity.

Other nations have stood and voiced their concerns that President Assad has violated its international obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Isn't it time for our President and this administration to stand and speak as the world leader and call on President Assad to step down and for the Syrian Government to end its cruel crimes against humanity?

I am firmly convinced that the rest of the peace-loving world will respond to our leadership. They are looking for it. They expect it. They are asking for it, and the Syrian people will be encouraged and defended. And liberty's cause will be promoted in this earthquake zone called the Middle East.

It's time to speak up. May God grant our President and this administration and our government the courage to do so. Because it is for humanity and people like ourselves that we speak.

OLD-FASHIONED ECONOMIC COMMON SENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, my constituents know that Washington could learn a lot from using just some good old-fashioned Georgia common sense. I want to tell you a quick story. Earlier this month after one of my town hall meetings, a mayor from a small town in my district came up to tell me about the hard times that her city has been dealing with recently. Unemployment has shot through the roof, and many businesses in Hoschton, Georgia, have been forced to downsize or shut down completely. The mayor told me about how tough times have also required her to make some bold choices about Hoschton's budget. Ultimately in efforts to keep the town afloat, she ended up slashing their budget by a whopping 67 percent. The mayor said to me, "Everything has to be put on the table. Nothing can be impossible to cut."

My liberal Democrat colleagues need to take note. It's long past time for the Obama administration to stop spending money like there's no tomorrow. There is a tomorrow, even though right now, with over 9 percent unemployment, that tomorrow is looking pretty bleak.

□ 1110

America's runaway spending has gotten so far out of control that it's hard get a grasp on the amount of debt our Nation is in or how long it will take us to repay the almost \$14½ trillion that we have borrowed.

Americans don't want excuses anymore; they want solutions. They want less spending and more jobs. They want burdensome regulations removed from the backs of small businesses who can put so many more people back to work. They want more free choice and less big government when it comes to their day-to-day lives.

Washington needs to follow the lead of small cities, small businesses, and families who are tightening their belts all across this country. That small Georgia town in my district that cut 67 percent of their budget to deal with their financial crisis ought to be a model and a blueprint for the Obama administration and for Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.